

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, MARR, BF

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR EXUMA SOUND OPERATIONS(C)

REF: NASSAU 447

1. (C) REFTEL DELINEATED THE PROBLEM OF CONTINUING EXUMA SOUND OPERATIONS SHOULD LOS CONFERENCE NEGOTIATIONS RESULT IN INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE ARCHIPELAGIC PRINCIPLE. IT RECOMMENDED THAT A DECISION BE REACHED AS TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR CONTINUING THESE OPERATIONS AT THEIR PRESENT LOCATION AND PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES. ALSO, IT SUGGESTED OPTIONS TO PROVIDE FOR CONTINUATION OF THE OPERATIONS WHEN AND IF LOS CONFERENCE ACTIONS NECESSITATE.

2. (C) OF THE ALTERNATIVES PRESENTED REFTEL, CONTINUANCE OF EXUMA SOUND OPERATIONS AS PRESENTLY CONDUCTED IS THE ONLY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE. EXUMA SOUND POSSESSES UNIQUE ACOUSTIC AND OCEANOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS WHICH CANNOT BE DUPLICATED IN ANY KNOWN ATLANTIC OR CARIBBEAN REGION. AD-
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DITIONALLY, RELOCATION OF THE OPERATIONS TO THE AUTEC RANGE

WOULD SERIOUSLY DEGRADE OPERATIONS NOW CONDUCTED IN BOTH LOCATIONS.

3. (C) A REVIEW OF THE OPTIONS IN REFTTEL INDICATES THAT OPTION "A" IS THE MOST DESIRABLE, I.E. CONSIDER EXUMA SOUND OPERATIONS AS AN EXTENSION OF THE AUTECH (TOTO) OPERATIONS. THIS OPTION PROVIDES THE OPTIMUM POSITION WITH A MINIMAL

QUID REQUIREMENT. OPTIONS B (TREAT AS SEPARATE FACILITY) AND C (TREAT AS TACIT PART OF OPERATING RIGHTS) WOULD INTRODUCE ADDITIONAL COMPLEX FACTORS TO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

4. (C) IN SUMMARY, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT OPERATIONS CONTINUE IN EXUMA SOUND AS PRESENTLY CONDUCTED. WE CONCUR WITH EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION THAT NO INITIATIVE SHOULD BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME. WHEN AND IF EVENTS NECESSITATE, ACTION TO ENSURE CONTINUED AVAILABILITY OF EXUMA SOUND SHOULD BE SOUGHT WITH OPTION "A" AS THE U.S. RENEGOTIATION POSITION AND OPTIONS B AND C AS FALLBACK POSITIONS IN RESPECTIVE ORDER. KISSINGER

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